STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
SIDDHARTA

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Monday 27th April 2020
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REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR

Doorstep Thermal Screening Drive against Pandemic

A team of Health Department staff on their door-to-door Thermal Screening Drive at Janatanagar this morning. Picture right shows curious women, who appear to be strictly following 'STAY HOME STAY SAFE' mantra, peeping out of their doors to have a glimpse of the ongoing drive.

Mysuru, Apr. 27 (RK&BNR)- As per directions from the Central Government, the Mysuru District Administration, jointly with Health and Family Welfare Department, has launched a drive to conduct Thermal Screening of all those living in hotspot areas across the district since Apr.24.

A total of 28 areas, including 13 in city, have been declared as hotspots within the district that has already been identified as a COVID-19 hotspot.

To the many measures in place to check the spread of deadly COVID-19, door-to-door Thermal Screening has been added to curtail the pandemic at the root. A Health Department team, including Staff Nurse, equipped with thermal screening machines, gloves and masks, will visit every household to check if anyone is suffering from fever, cold and cough or other symptoms. In the 200 metre Containment Zones or Red Zone that have already been sealed, Thermal Screening is done to all the family members of the positive patient and also all houses are covered in the screening that is done both in the morning and evening.

In the areas coming under Buffer Zone, that is areas coming in the 5-kilometre radius of the Containment Zones, vulnerable group (those with medical history including BP, sugar, kidney and heart problem and those aged above 60 years, pregnant women and women under post-natal care) is being thermal screened.

If a person has a temperature above 37.5 degree Celsius, he/she will be referred to nearby Fever Clinic. In case of Containment Zone, ambulance will be arranged to take the person to the Fever Clinic for testing and in Buffer Zone, people should self-report to the Fever Clinic.

A total of 1,900 nurses, including 200 in city, have been appointed for the purpose. There is no scarcity of thermal screening machines as the district possesses 50 thermal screening machines and as of now one each has been given to 28 Containment Zones, said the District Epidemic Diseases Control Officer.

Containment Zones in Mysuru city include Gokulam, Jayalakshmipuram, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Nagar, Janatanagar, Kuvempunagar, Srirampura, two areas in J.P. Nagar, Meena Bazaar, Nazarbad, Vijayanagar First and Second Stages.

The Containment Zones have already been sealed with only a single point of entry and exit and a team comprising officials and staff from Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), City Police and Health Department, are working in three shifts to enforce measures of Red Zone 24x7.

43 of 89 COVID positive patients recover in Mysuru

Abhiram G. Sankar

Mysuru, Apr. 27 (BCT)- In a remarkable achievement, 43 Coronavirus positive patients have been discharged so far from the designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road after they have fully recovered from the disease. This is an indication to the fact that Mysuru District is slowly returning to normalcy from the killer epidemic.

In all, 89 positive cases were reported in Mysuru — predominantly from Nanjangud, the epicentre being Jubilant Generics pharmaceutical company and cases from a religious gathering in Delhi.

According to the media bulletin released by Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar this morning, five persons were discharged today.

Those released today showed no symptoms and all their tests have proven negative. All protocols were followed and the patients have been advised rest and quarantine for some more days, Hospital sources said. With five discharges today, there are a total 46 active COVID-19 cases.

(See PATIENTS on page 4)

City's veteran RSS leader gets phone call from Modi

Swayamsevak N.R. Chandrashekar on his moped in front of his leased-out house.

Mysuru, Apr. 27 (MTY&BCT)- Amid the COVID-19 outbreak, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is making a special effort to check on the health of his senior colleagues in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in keeping with his reminder to people on Apr. 14 to take special care of senior citizens in their homes.

The PM is calling on several of his senior colleagues on the phone to check on their health and ensure that they are not facing any trouble during the nationwide lockdown. And one such person whom the Prime Minister called yesterday afternoon was N.R. Chandrashekar, senior Sangh Parivar leader and former Corporator of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC).

By calling senior party functionaries across the country, Modi is setting an example for other Prime Ministers with his good gestures and respect for senior BJP leaders.

Chandrashekar got emotional hearing PM Modi's voice at the other end as the conversation began with 'Chandrashekarji' and spoke for about three minutes.

(See RSS on page 6)

STAR PUNCH

By Satish Acharya

Mysuru Railway Hospital too contributes its mite to battle COVID-19

Ground-level works led by Chief Medical Superintendent Dr. Meera Patil

Mysuru, Apr. 27- "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail," a quote attributed to Philosopher-Statesman Benjamin Franklin, could not have been more appropriate than now as the world is grappling with the scourge of Coronavirus.

The Indian Railways has massively contributed to the battle against COVID-19 pandemic — be it the conversion of nearly 5,000 passenger coaches as Isolation Wards or the large-scale in-house production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for frontline medical and healthcare personnel or maintaining supply chain intact through the movement of essential commodities by freight trains to the remote corners of the country.

When the mantle of responsibility fell on the Railway Hospital, Mysuru, to support the District Administration in management of the COVID-19, the Mysuru Division wasted no time in creating a 10-bedded Isolation Ward for COVID-19 patients besides earmarking another 64 beds for exclusive use of suspected Coronavirus cases duly separating

Dr. Meera Patil

them from non-COVID-19 patients as a precaution to prevent spread of possible infections.

The ground-level works at the Railway Hospital were led by Dr. Meera Patil, Chief Medical Superintendent, South Western Railway Hospital. Dr. Meera joined Indian Railway Medical Services in 1987 as a Specialised Paediatrician and she holds a Post-Graduation Diploma in Child Health from Bengaluru Medical College (BMC).

"Time is of essence in delivery of critical health care services," said Dr. Meera Patil while highlighting the fact that protecting her team of healthcare professionals was also equally important.

Sensing the importance of putting in place the required infrastructure without allowing the system to be overwhelmed, she swung into action by hastening the process for procuring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) like clothing, face shields, masks, gloves, sanitisers as also portable ventilators and pulse oximeters, etc. for the Intensive Care Unit.

A Fever Clinic was set up in the Railway Hospital to screen people with symptoms of COVID-19, especially those having history of travel. Both Dr. Meera Patil and Aparna Garg, Divisional Railway Manager, South Western Railway, Mysuru, took swift action in basic preparations.

The support of Mysuru District Administration for arranging a mock drill for Railway staff to handle COVID-19 cases as per the standard protocols gave the team a head-start.

Despite the psychological stress while handling COVID-19 cases, the medical team showed remarkable resilience and composure to do everything possible in their power to mitigate the impact on patients who reach the hospital for initial screening, many of them from the Railway fraternity.

Karnataka's free Library App sees huge jump in downloads during lockdown

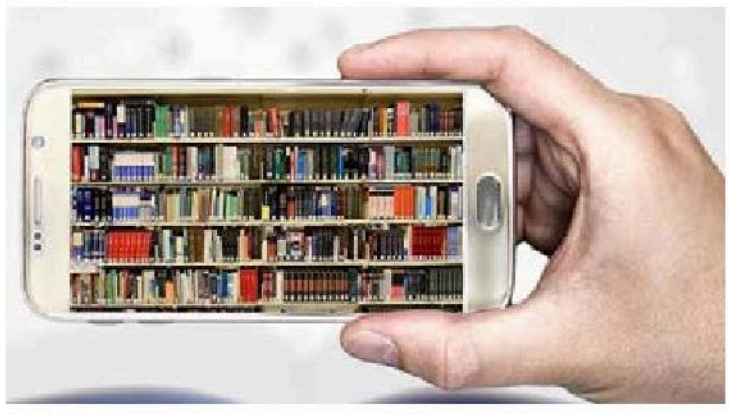
- **Over 43,000 take to e-learning across State till Apr. 22**
- **Mysuru stands third in number of registrations**

Mysuru, Apr. 27- The Department of Public Libraries, Government of Karnataka, transformed its legacy libraries into digital libraries and launched a Library App in February. Since then thousands of people have taken to free e-learning. However, the COVID-19 lockdown has led to an exponential growth in downloading of the Government's Digital Library App — 'e-Sarvajanika Granthalaya.'

There are over one lakh e-books available on the Department's digital platform ranging from arts and humanity to school curricula, competitive exams and self-help to classic novels, all for free for the readers. Not just the books, the app contains over 600 educational videos too.

The digital library is available as both web-based (www.karnatakadigitalpubliclibrary.org) and app-based for users. Users can download the app "e-Sarvajanika Granthalaya" from the APP store.

Karnataka has a vast network of Public Libraries which includes State Central Library at the State-level (2), District Central Libraries (30) at the district level, City Central Libraries (26), Mobile Libraries (13), Branch Libraries (488), and Gram Panchayat Libraries (5766). The library modernisation project covers 272 Public Libraries consisting of 26 City Central Libraries, 30 District Central Libraries, and 216 Taluk Libraries.



Mysuru stands third: From Mar. 22 to Apr. 22, a total of 43,219 people have registered across the State in the Government's Digital Library platform. Mysuru district stands third in number of registrations and Digital Library App downloads with 1,887 registrations while Bengaluru Urban has 12,849, Bagalkot - 3,137, Belagavi - 1,713, Shivamogga - 1,705, Ballari - 1,291 and Dakshina Kannada - 1,043.

Membership Drive marks World Book Day: Library staff, who too are at home in the wake of a lockdown, called up the members of the respective branch library over phone, asking them to sign up for a free membership through a Digital Library App. In this way, the membership drive marked the celebration of 'World Book and Copyright Day' on Thursday (Apr.23).

"Public can access over one lakh e-content by downloading Digital Library App. Hence, World Book Day was celebrated in a special way by informing members over phone to download this App," said B. Manjunath, Deputy Director, Department of Public Libraries, Mysuru.

Jubilant Bhartia Group contributes Rs.10 crore to PM CARES Fund

Mysuru, Apr. 27- Jubilant Bhartia Group has contributed Rs. 10 crore to PM CARES (Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations) Fund in support of the Central Government's initiatives in mitigating the COVID-19 crisis.

Two group companies — Jubilant Foodworks Limited (one of the largest food service companies in India and master franchise of Domino's Pizza and Dunkin' Donuts) and Jubilant Life Sciences Limited (an integrated global pharmaceuticals and life sciences company) — contributed Rs. 5 crore each to the Fund. The contribution of Jubilant Life Sciences Limited, along with all its subsidiaries, includes one day gross salary of its 5,300 employees.

Jubilant Bhartia Foundation (JBF), a not-for-profit organisation of the Group, has taken several measures at the grassroots level in the areas of health and safety, food and ration distribution, sanitisation, communication, medical and medicine, distribution of PPEs and support to the Administration across various locations.

JBF is distributing sanitiser manufactured by Jubilant Life Sciences Limited within the community, to healthcare workers and the Government at both Central and State level.

Food and medicine distribution (ready to eat food packets and dry ration) is also being undertaken to the vulnerable community members like migrant labourers, pregnant women, senior citizens, children at various places across the country.

JBF is facilitating the stitching of reusable cotton mask at various sites in the country through Self Help Groups (SHGs). These masks are washable and reusable and the Foundation has been providing the raw material for them.

Additionally, Jubilant Foodworks Limited has been providing PPE kits and food distribution for the impacted citizens and Police staff. It has also leveraged its Domino's delivery team and supply chain network for distribution of essential commodities like flour, milk etc. to help citizens get their daily needs in the safety of their homes, according to a press release.

VOICE OF THE READER

Social distancing

not seen during mass distribution of essential materials

Sir,

In the absence of medicines to cure COVID-19, social distancing and maintaining personal hygiene are very important to contain the spread of the Novel Coronavirus. Though Government is increasing awareness about these in the public, when it comes to implementation, both the people and the authorities are failing at many places to adopt social distancing in public places, especially during mass distribution of essential materials to the needy or when public come on to the roads to buy their daily needs at vegetable or meat markets. Every day at least one such incident is seen in newspapers about violation of social distancing.

Social distancing is missing even in functions attended by senior level administrators. There is an incident wherein 15 Government officials, who participated in a rally organised by a local MLA to distribute the food materials in Andhra Pradesh. With the fear of rising number of asymptomatic Corona cases, everyone in the society, irrespective of their status and position, should follow the social distancing norm till the virus is eliminated from this world.

Every person in our country need to wear the face mask and maintain personal hygiene (mainly hand washing, not touching eyes, nose and mouth with unhygienic hands, etc.) and adopt environmental hygiene (not to cough or sneeze or blow the nose in open air or spitting saliva or paan, gutka masala, etc.). Otherwise, we may have to see its dire consequences, due to high density of population, especially in crowded cities and towns of our country.

— S.V.N. Vijayendra
on e-mail

Roopanagar
26.4.2020

Mysore Merchants Co-op. Bank donates Rs. 5 lakh to CM Relief Fund

The Mysore Merchants Co-operative Bank has donated Rs. 5 lakh to COVID-19 Chief Minister's Relief Fund recently. Picture shows Bank President R. Anand and Directors C.V. Somashekar, B.R. Nandeesh and Bank's General Manager Sridhar B. Kulakarni handing the cheque to District Minister S.T. Somashekar as District Co-operative Union President H.V. Rajeev and former MLA A.H. Vishwanath look on.

Congress launches COVID-19 Helpline 080- 47188000

Mysuru, Apr.27- Joining the efforts in the battle against the deadly Novel Coronavirus, the Doctors Cell of the State Congress Unit has launched a COVID-19 Helpline.

Announcing this at a press meet at the Congress Office near the city Railway Station on Friday, KPCC Doctors Cell General Secretary Dr. Bharathkumar said public can call the Helpline No. 080-47188000 for COVID-19 or for any other medical consultation.

Pointing out that more than 200 doctors are part of this Helpline, who will give medical advice based on the ailments described by the callers, he said that the doctors will also issue prescriptions over the phone in accordance with the symptoms or disease explained by the callers.

Medical advice will also be given for multi-specialities such as Cardiology, Neurology, Urology, Gynaecology and Oncology round-the- clock.

Former MLA M.K. Somashekar, who heads the COVID-19 Mysuru City Congress Task Force, MLA Dr. Yathindra Siddharamaiah, District Congress President Dr. B.J. Vijaykumar, City President R. Murthy, Doctors Cell office-bearers Dr. Narendra, Dr. Pradeep, party leader D. Ravishankar and others were present at the press meet.

SBM Colony residents come together to help needy

The residents of SBM Colony, Srirampura II Stage, responded spontaneously within one hour of call given by volunteers to extend liberally in cash or groceries for the aid of COVID-19 affected poor, by which groceries worth Rs.80,000 was delivered to the Nodal Officer of MCC at Jayamma Govindegowda Kalyana Mantapa on Wednesday, which was acknowledged with due appreciation in the form of a certificate. All appreciations to the residents and volunteers who could make it possible in the shortest time, said K.V. Ramanath, a volunteer from SBM Colony.

Learners PU College launches Online Digital Platform

Mysuru, Apr. 27- Learners PU College, Mysuru, inaugurated its Online Digital Platform, *www.learnersdigital.com* on Sunday (Apr.26). The inauguration was done in a successful online event by Infosys Co-founder K. Dinesh. He delivered an inspirational talk on 'Think Positive, Think Future and Think Learning.'

Madhavi Lata, Principal of Learners PU College, welcomed the guests and introduced K. Dinesh. It was followed by an invocation song by Shreshta, a I PUC student of Learners.

After the inauguration of Learners Digital Platform, Murali Mohan, Founder of Learners PU College, described the digital portal, its uniqueness and uses to students and all the participants.

In his talk, Dinesh inspired all the students and parents on how to stay focussed, how to stay positive, how to learn effectively and mainly stressed upon making six friends in life — What, Why, When, Where, Who and How. He insisted on using this 5W1H concept whenever there is a new learning. He spoke about importance of physical fitness, quality of sleep and sticking to the everyday time table.

It was followed by a Q&A round. He answered one of the parent by saying discipline does not come overnight, we have to train children through everyday life. Speaking on the occasion, Dinesh said that soon, the world will be back on its feet. "We are happy that technology is helping us to improve health care and learning. Future depends in learning, so never stop learning," he added.

Learners Digital Platform

The courses in this Platform are designed and developed based on Learners unique learning methodology which comprises 5W1H framework, Mind Map and Study Technology Principles which makes learning easy and effective.

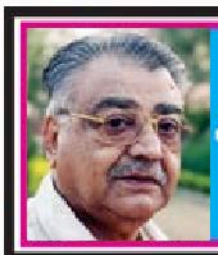
In this Platform, the course structure and delivery methodology, comprises the following five steps: **1.** Students enrolment; **2.** Pre-assessment; **3.** Mentoring; **4.** Personal Learning Plan; **5.** Post Assessment.

Currently, the College has designed and developed, the following study package and is offering it free of cost. Learners PU College offers to provide scholarships for students who use this platform and show improvement in their performance.

1. Math Foundation Course: A high quality mathematics education provides foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason, sense of enjoyment and curiosity. The first course launched is 'Math Foundation Course' on Learners Digital Platform as Mathematics is one of the key subjects and also challenging subject to many students as research has shown that about 70% of students are facing difficulties in Math Subject due to lack of fundamental skills in Arithmetic and Algebra. Learners has identified 20 fundamental skills in Arithmetic and Algebra which are essential.

2. Free SSLC Mock Tests for the benefit of students who are going to appear for the upcoming 10th Board exam. The mock tests are available of Math and Science papers.

3. II PUC Online Classes & Assessments: It is offering PCMB Board, CET/ NEET / IIT classes online. Also, the College has an Online Assessment System for CET/ NEET/ JEE , similar to National Testing Agency for the benefit of student community and is planning to soon start I PUC Online classes using this platform.



Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

The wanton insult of old age according to Mark Twain

These are the days of Coronavirus, COVID-19. These are the days of lockdown and social distancing. These are the days of house quarantine or isolated hospitalisation. These are bad days. These are days of despair.

Every day is the longest day. Every night is the longest night. Worse is when you don't get sleep and try to suppress what might be a cough!

Though summer, this is the time doctor advises to keep drinking hot water.

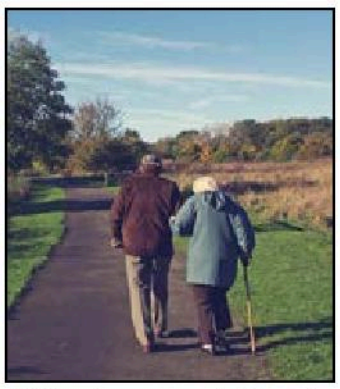
In such a predicament, time hangs heavily during my waking hours. While having breakfast, I hear the chirping of the birds and buzzing of the insects. Small birds with coloured plumes land on my flower plants and garden benches. I had never seen this happen in the past 20 years I have been living here in this house.

In the evening over my house and garden, the sky seems low with many flights of birds in formation, probably returning home near a forest or a water body.

Being summer, sun rises early and rays get warmer sooner than it was in the preceding winter. Actually, I was oblivious of all these metamorphosis of nature in all the 20 years I have been living here in my house, the "Fourth Estate," Mysuru East. If anything, I should grudgingly thank Coronavirus for exposing me to this wonderful world of NATURE.

But yet, the question that hangs over me like a bugbear has been, 'How to spend time? Or more appropriately, how to kill time?' I am no artist. No painter, singer, musician, yoga or meditation freak. Nor good in any indoor table games, even though others in the house have interest. That said, I admit I am a habitual pen-pusher — a writing journalist. So I decided to read books and write if there is inclination or overflow of creative juice. This happened yesterday. Hence, I write this hoping it might interest my readers.

I was reading a book of short-stories titled "50 World's Greatest Short Stories" given to me by Raghavan, owner of the well-known Pharmaceutical Shop 'Raghulal & Co.,' long ago



Picture for representation only.

on 3rd December 2018. Thanks to lockdown, I am forced to pursue knowledge further.

The short-story I have chosen to write about here is by no less a celebrity writer and wit Mark Twain and the title is "The Five Boons of Life." A curious kind of short story divided into five very short chapters — Chapter I to Chapter V. As I venture to concise the Chapters, I must quote the first opening part of the story in Chapter I.

"In the morning of life came a good Fairy with her basket, and said: "Here are the gifts. Take one, leave the others. And be wary, choose wisely; Oh, choose wisely! for only one of them is valuable." The gifts were five: **Fame, Love, Riches, Pleasure, Death.**

The youth, being youth with all the desire of his body, instantly said, 'There is nothing to consider. I choose **Pleasure**.'

The youth happily indulged in the worldly pleasures but found each pleasure in its turn was short-lived. Some disappointing and vain. In the end he realised he had wasted his youth and if he could choose again he would choose **WISELY.**

The Fairy appeared and said only four of the five gifts remain. The youth, who is now man, chose **Love.** After many years the man sat by a coffin in his empty home in sadness saying all his loved ones have left him one by one... For choosing Love I got only hours of grief.

The sympathetic Fairy appeared before him and said, 'Choose again; only three gifts remain.' The man chose **Fame.** Years went by. And one day the Fairy found him sitting solitary with the fame fading away, thinking. The Fairy stood behind him and could read his thoughts — "My name filled the world, and the world was praising me. But it did not last long. Then came envious people, hate came, detraction and persecution..."

The Fairy said, "Choose yet again. Only two gifts remain. The precious gift is still here one among the two, choose." He chose **Wealth** saying it has power. With this my life would become worth living. I will spend on luxury, those who earlier mocked will now crawl before me. I will buy, buy, buy!

Alas! Three short years went by and he was in rags; reduced to poverty, penury. He realised the **Gifts** he chose were gilded lies, curses. They were not Gifts — Pleasure, Love, Fame and Riches. They are curses, liabilities, temporary. **They only made him suffer Pain, Grief, Shame, Poverty.**

The merciful Fairy appeared and told him that in her Store of Gifts there was only one gift which was precious, which was not valueless. Death.

The man in utter despair told the Fairy, **"Bring it. I am weary. I would rest."**

Chapter V

The Fairy came but with only four gifts. Death was not there. 'Where is the Gift of Death?' mumbled the man in rags.

The Fairy said, "I gave it to a mother's pet, a little child... it trusted me, asking me to choose for it. You did not ask me to choose."

The wretched old man bemoaned: "Oh, miserable me! What is left for me?"

The Fairy said what was left for him now was what even he did not deserve. **"The wanton insult of Old Age."**

In the first reading, I was not able to understand the meaning of the Fairy's answer. I discussed with a wise friend on phone with much effort. He said in his typical style, "You f....r, it is for old men like you and I. It says, if you and I don't kick the bucket before our **wealth** melts away what we are left with will be **'The wanton insult of Old Age.'** Of course, till death comes. Got it old man?"

As a friend I did not like him calling me an old man.

I retorted: "Yeh. Got it, you dirty old man!"

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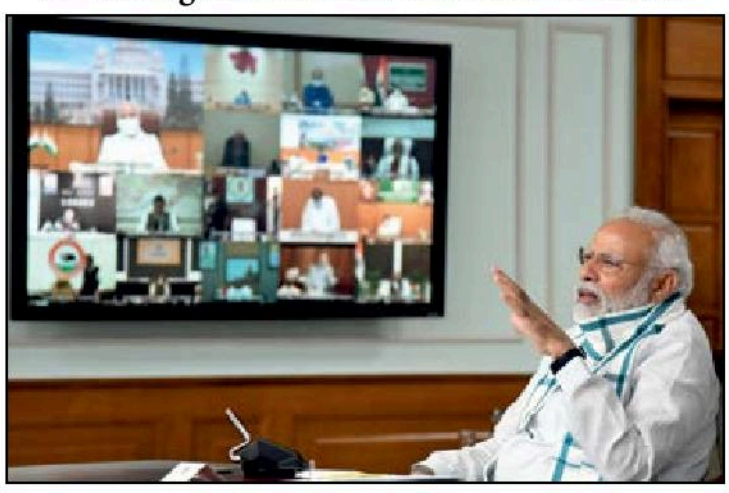
Lockdown will stay in Red Zones, says PM

States asked to demarcate districts as Red, Green and Orange Zones based on level of infection



New Delhi, Apr. 27 (UNI & Agencies)- As India enters the final week of nationwide lockdown, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a video conference with the Chief Ministers this morning to discuss the road ahead. This was the fourth such meeting between Narendra Modi and State Chief Ministers since the outbreak emerged.

Modi told the CMs that India's economy was good and indicated that the Coronavirus lockdown would continue in parts of the country worst affected by the infection. "There is no need to worry on the economy front, our economy is good," Modi told the CMs.

Going by the minutes of the meeting, it looks like the lockdown will continue in hotspots with the restrictions that is already in force. Mysuru too is a hotspot and a Red Zone and the PM indicated in his meeting that States will be given the responsibility of looking into individual areas and tighten or relax the lockdown measures.

Chief Minister of Karnataka B.S. Yediyurappa too attended today's video conference. However, a clear-cut directive has not come from the Centre so far on the lockdown relaxation. PM Modi is likely to address the nation to spell out the exit strategy though the date and time of the address have not been finalised.

Reports said the Prime Minister has asked all States to prepare their plan on exiting the lockdown by demarcating districts as Red, Green and Orange based on the level of infection. Economic activities are likely to reopen in Green and Orange Zones. But any commercial activity will be allowed to restart only with social distancing rules and wearing masks.

In his opening remarks at the meeting in which nine Chief Ministers also spoke, Home Minister Amit Shah asked States to strictly implement the guidelines and enforce restrictions during the lockdown. Shah is learnt to have said that this is a long battle, which has to be fought patiently.

Many Chief Ministers said the lockdown should not be lifted overnight and should continue with more relaxations for at least a month. Delhi, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal wanted the lockdown to be extended. Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are inclined to go with the Centre's decision in this regard.

Modi, in the video-conference, was seen covering his face with a traditional 'gamcha'. The PM's 'gamcha' was a plain white colour with a sea green check pattern. Covering the mouth and nose with a traditional 'gamcha' has been the go-to option for Modi in a bid to make people aware of how they can easily take precautions against Coronavirus.

Patients recover in Mysuru

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking to reporters yesterday, the DC had, however, said that emergence of new positive cases cannot be ruled out. "The rate of disease spread has declined in the last few days. We have completed tests of all the employees of Jubilant Generics. Tests on the primary and secondary contacts of the positive cases that were reported till Apr. 11 was completed and the results of a few are yet to be out," Abhiram Sankar said.

"As per guidelines primary and secondary contacts must be tested on the 12th day to get the exact report. Tests on the contacts are being conducted almost twice, as a precautionary measure," he revealed.

"For sure, positive cases will decline. Until now, the rate of positive cases was three to four percent. We are in a better position compared to the recent past," he said but cautioned that it is not possible to totally rule out the emergence of new cases.

Death of two Forest personnel at Kabini backwaters

Forest Minister Anand Singh visits spot

Interim compensation of Rs. 1 lakh given to families of deceased

Forest Minister Anand Singh along with Forest Officials inspecting the spot in Kabini backwaters where two Forest personnel got drowned. Picture right shows Anand Singh consoling the family members of deceased Forest Watcher Shivakumar at Brahmagiri Tribal Hamlet yesterday.

H.D. Kote, Apr. 27 (MTY&KS)- Forest Minister Anand Singh yesterday evening visited Kabini backwaters in Bandipur Tiger Reserve area where two Forest personnel, who were conducting an operation against illegal fishing drowned. The Minister later visited Brahmagiri tribal hamlet and spoke to the parents of deceased Forest Watcher Shivakumar.

Minister Anand Singh, accompanied with MLAs Anil Chikkamadu and H.P. Manjunath along with senior Forest officials, who arrived yesterday evening, set out in a boat from the Anti-Poaching Camp in Udbur coming under Antharasanthe Range in Nagarahole Reserve Forest and came to Gundre Range in Bandipur Tiger Reserve Forest and inspected the spot in Kabini backwaters. They then went to Brahmagiri tribal hamlet on the banks of Kabini backwaters and visited the house of deceased Shivakumar.

The Minister, who spoke to the family members of deceased Shivakumar, provided financial assistance from his own pocket and handed over a interim compensation cheque for Rs. 1 lakh provided by the Government. Minister Anand Singh assured of getting the remaining compensation amount of Rs. 9 lakh within 15 days besides assuring of getting the insurance amount soon. He also assured of providing job to one member of deceased Shivakumar's family.

Speaking to the media, the Minister condoled the death of two Forest personnel and instructed the officials concerned to conduct a thorough probe into the incident.

HO Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HOPCCF) Punati Sridhar, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Sanjay Mohan, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF) Jagath Ram, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) T. Heeralal, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve Director Mahesh Kumar, Bandipur Project Tiger Director T. Balachandra, Deputy Conservators of Forests (DCFs) Dr. K.C. Prashanth Kumar, Alexander and Poovaiah, Hunsur Dy.SP Sundaraj, Circle Inspector Puttaswamy, Tirbal leader Vijayakumar and others were present.

Body of another Forest Watcher fished out

The body of Forest Watcher Shivakumar, who was drowned along with another Forest watcher Mahesh Kumar, was traced and fished out from Kabini backwaters yesterday morning. The body of Mahesh Kumar was fished out on Saturday.

Shivakumar Mahesh Kumar

Post-mortem of Shivakumar's body was conducted at H.D. Kote General Hospital and the body was handed over to his family members.

Two arrested for illegal transportation and sale of liquor

Mysuru, Apr. 27 (PM&KS)- In separate cases, the Excise Department officials have arrested two persons on charges of transporting liquor and selling the same illegally and have seized 16,800 litres liquor and a two-wheeler from them.

Those arrested are 40-year-old Satish Kumar and 45-year-old Kumar. The accused were arrested on Saturday night at Vijayanagar 4th Stage.

In the first case, accused Shivakumar was nabbed when he was illegally transporting liquor on a two-wheeler on the Ring Road in Vijayanagar 4th Stage and seized the liquor and vehicle.

16,800 lts liquor, one two-wheeler seized

In the second case, the Excise officials, acting on a tip off that liquor was illegally stored in a house at Vijayanagar 4th Stage to be sold later, raided the house and arrested Kumar besides seizing liquor bottles stored in the house.

Excise Department Deputy Commissioner M.S. Murali supervised Inspector Anand Kumar, Sub-Inspector Shivaraj and staff in the nabbing and seizing operation.

885 raids conducted

The Excise Department officials have conducted a total of 885 raids on those manufacturing liquor, transporting and selling them illegally from Apr. 23 to 26 in the district.

A total of 14 cases have been booked and 14 accused arrested, according to Excise Department Deputy Commissioner M.S. Murali in a press release.

Pourakarmikas want Ordinance to cover them too

Mysuru, Apr.27- Former Mysuru Mayor Narayana, who is also the President of Karnataka Pourakarmika Mahasangha, has urged the Government to bring in civic workers too under the recently introduced 'The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020' that is aimed at protecting health workers including doctors, nurses, paramedics, ASHA workers and other Corona Warriors from attacks by miscreants.

Narayana

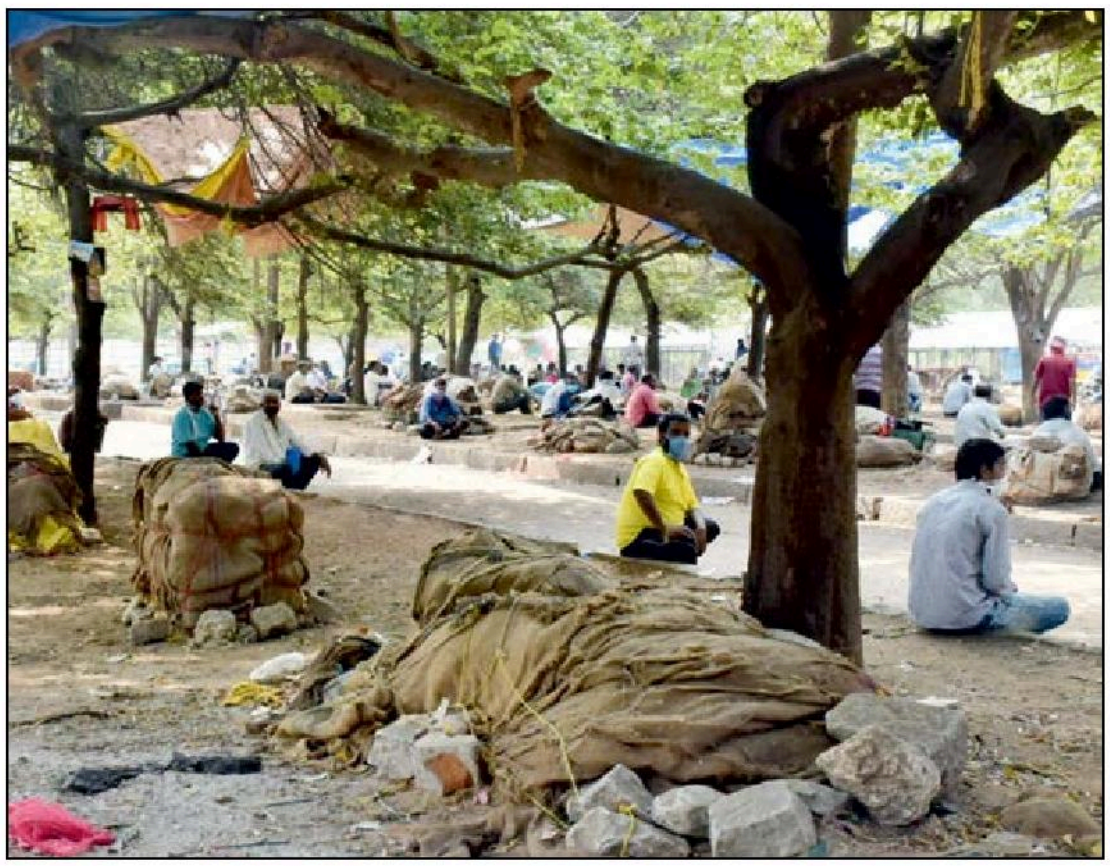
In a press release, Narayana said that Pourakarmikas too are very much part of the battle against the deadly COVID-19 and as such they must be covered by the Ordinance.

Pointing out that Pourakarmikas are working day and night to keep the cities clean and hygienic and are also engaged in fogging, fumigation, disinfectant spraying, collection of wastes from quarantined houses and such other preventive and safety measures, while putting their own health under risk, he said that they are always under the threat of being attacked or abused by miscreants. Hence all civic workers too must be declared as health workers and brought under the cover of the Ordinance, he urged.

Demanding the Government to announce Rs.50 lakh compensation under the Union Government's Health Scheme to the family of the deceased Malavalli Pourakarmika Basavaraj, who died while spraying disinfectant at Malavalli town in Mandya district, which has been declared as a Red Zone, Narayana also wanted the Government to provide a job to a family member of the deceased Basavaraj. He further urged the Government to hike wages for Pourakarmikas in all local bodies.

M.G. Road Market vendors stay put

Refuse to move to Dasara Expo venue; no veggie sales today



Mysuru, Apr. 27 (RK&BCT)- In a curious turn of events this morning, vegetable vendors of the M.G. Road Market who were asked to either move to Dasara Exhibition venue or the Lalitha Mahal Grounds Market refused to budge from their places and squatted on their designated places. They just sat quiet and did not even sell their vegetables.

The Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde had passed an order yesterday asking the vendors to shift to Dasara Exhibition venue or the Lalitha Mahal Grounds temporary market as it was literally impossible to maintain social distancing at the M.G. Road Market.

As the order was issued yesterday, it was expected today that the vendors would either move to the new places or they might resort to protest. Both did not happen this morning and the vendors, who had got vegetables from their far-flung villages, quietly sat on the ground at their usual places under tree shade. The place was neither barricaded nor had the Police beefed up security. But there was minimum Police presence.

Vendors refused to sell their vegetables while some of them slept leaning onto their vegetable stocks. Some confided to *Star of Mysore* that they will neither move to the new place nor sell vegetables at M.G. Road Market. "Our lives have been destroyed and now if we move, the authorities will not allow the market to function even after lockdown. They might seal this place permanently," a vendor said.

Another lady vendor said that the M.G. Road Market has five toilets each for men and women. "A the Dasara Exhibition, there are only two toilets and we are over 70 vendors. At the Exhibition venue, there are other vendors too. How will we manage? Here the facilities are good and there is enough shade for us to complete the sales and leave for our homes by 10 am. The Exhibition venue is full of dust," she said.

Today, the vendors had the breakfast supplied by their association and left to their homes with their stocks. Other vendors too are of the collective opinion that they will not budge from this place.

Auto drivers seek financial support

Mysuru, Apr.27 (PM&DM)- Hit hard by the loss of income due to COVID-19 lockdown, the city auto drivers have sought financial support and ration from the Government.

In a memorandum submitted to Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar at his office recently, Mysuru Autorickshaw Drivers Association said that there are nearly 30,000 auto drivers and owners in the city, who earned their daily bread by ferrying passengers.

But now due to lockdown, there has been no source of income for them, which has jeopardised their livelihood. As such the Government should extend monetary benefits to them just as in the case of construction workers who have got Rs.2,000 each from the Government. Also, the Government should provide them free ration and come to the rescue of their families, that are struggling to lead life in the absence of any income, the memorandum said.

Association President M. Mahadevaswamy and other office-bearers were present.

City's veteran RSS leader

(Continued from page 1)

Chandrashekar, aged 77 and a resident of Vidyaranyapuram 4th Main, 9th Cross, got a call from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday afternoon and the caller on the other end asked Chandrashekar if he was available to talk with the PM.

"I was taken aback and surprised and I made sure that the call was indeed from the PMO. After a few minutes, Narendra Modi called and enquired about the well-being and my health. He spoke in Hindi and English and told me that it is because of the selfless work and sacrifice of BJP, RSS and Jan Sangh workers that he (Modi) has occupied the PM's post today. The PM sought my blessings and got emotional," Chandrashekar told *Star of Mysore*.

"He recalled my services during Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi when she was the PM and also recalled my services as a Corporator from 2000 to 2005 from the then Ward 9 (Vidyaranyapuram) and told me that he had read about my services and felt happy. I respectfully told PM Modi that I would follow whatever directions he (Modi) would give for me. Modi replied that he would like me to be a role model for the youth who are integrating the party and also serving it," Chandrashekar said.

"I humbly told Modi that I am a Swayamsevak and using all I have learnt from Sangh to help people. PM said we all have learnt from Sangh and that he too is a Swayamsevak observing lockdown in the interest of the nation. It was great to hear from him," added Chandrashekar.

It may be noted that the Prime Minister has been calling several senior functionaries of the party who worked for the Sangh Parivar in the time of adversities to build up the BJP in its present form and seeking advice from them.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	4,762
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	2,442
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	2,265
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	51
Total samples tested	:	2,774
Samples found negative	:	2,686
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	89
Persons cured / discharged	:	38
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	16
Persons cured / discharged	:	4
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	503
Persons cured / discharged	:	182
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	19
Total active cases in India	:	20,177
Persons cured / discharged	:	5,913
Death toll so far in India	:	826

(Note: Some of Mysuru data are as on Apr. 25. Media bulletin of Apr. 26 unavailable)

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number: 011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

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